

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

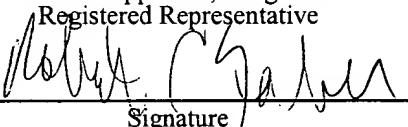
Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 6 that, as indicated by the Examiner, in combination with the features of claim 1 define patentable subject matter. Claim 6 is canceled.

In the Office Action, at paragraph 5, the Examiner indicates that claims 13-18, 27 and 28 are allowed. At paragraph 7, the Examiner indicates that claims 6, 8, 10-12, 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 6 and to place the claim in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 10-12, 25 and 26 are patentable because they directly or indirectly depend upon claim 1. As such, all of these claims 8, 10-12, 25 and 26 should be allowable.

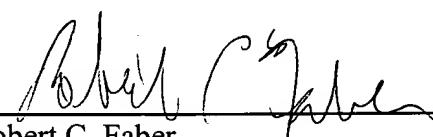
Claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Walters (U.S. Patent No. 6,279,248 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 1 is allowable in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The remaining rejected claims now include or are dependent upon allowable claims. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 19-24 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of remaining claims 1-5, and 7-28 is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 18, 2004:

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Name of applicant, assignee or  
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Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
March 18, 2004  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
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